

NASA ADMINISTRATOR DANIEL S. GOLDIN ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

After nearly 10 years as the head of America’s space program, NASA’s longest-serving Administrator, Daniel S. Goldin, announced his resignation on Oct. 17. It is effective Nov. 17.

“For nearly a decade, it has been my honor to serve the American people by leading our nation’s space program and its dedicated personnel,” Goldin said in a letter to President George W. Bush. “It was the highlight of my life when your father asked me in 1992 to serve as America’s ninth Administrator for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.”

In his letter, Goldin added he was happy and proud to serve three presidents and considered it an honor and a duty to stay when President Bush asked him to minister the office until a new NASA Administrator was found.

While no replacement has been selected, Goldin will work with the administration before he leaves office to identify an interim Acting Administrator.

“During his tenure as NASA Administrator, Dan Goldin challenged this agency and its employees to work creatively, intelligently and safely in expanding a human presence in space,” said Roy S. Estess, Acting Johnson Space Center Director.

“We have continued to safely fly the Space Shuttle, the most complex and imaginative vehicle ever to carry humans into space. We have entered an era of unprecedented human cooperation in space with the International Space Station, and we have maintained our commitment to the safety of all the people living and working in space.”

Estess added, “On a personal note, I have been a Center Director during his entire tenure at NASA and I very much appreciate his commitment to the country, to NASA and his support and help to me. Dan Goldin’s dedication to this country and its space program are well known. We will continue his commitment, flying humans safely in space and expanding our knowledge of the universe.”

Goldin, 61, was appointed NASA Administrator April 1, 1992, by President George H.W. Bush and became the agency’s longest-serving chief on March 5, 2001, surpassing James Fletcher’s previous record of nearly nine years during two separate terms.

The Administrator also announced he has accepted an interim position as a Senior Fellow for the Council on Competitiveness in Washington, as he transitions into the private sector. The council sets an action agenda to drive U.S. economic competitiveness and leadership in world markets to raise the standard of living for all Americans, and focuses on strengthening domestic innovation, upgrading the workforce and benchmarking national economic performance.

In a speech to NASA employees broadcast nationwide on NASA Television, Goldin thanked the Agency workforce and applauded their dedication.

“We have been through a lot together these past 10 years. Our Agency’s greatest strength is this team of highly qualified and diverse people,” Goldin said. “Each and every day, you have demonstrated an unyielding devotion to teamwork, communication, creativity and respect. You are clearly committed to excellence. I am proud to have been a part of that commitment and NASA’s continuing mission to expand the frontiers of flight, space and knowledge.”

During his tenure, Goldin initiated a revolution to transform America’s aeronautics and space program. Despite lower budgets, his “faster, better, cheaper” approach enabled NASA to deliver programs of high value without sacrificing safety.

Through aggressive management reforms, Goldin reduced annual budgets

by a cumulative total of \$40 billion. He implemented a more balanced aeronautics and space program by reducing human space flight funding from nearly half of NASA’s total budget to a little more than one-third. This allowed him to increase funding for science and aerospace technology by more than 10 percent.

Goldin played a pivotal role in redesigning the International Space Station and reduced Space Shuttle costs by about one-third, while improving all of NASA’s safety indicators. He has been a vigorous proponent for increased exploration of Mars, and expanded opportunities for public and educational participation in the adventure of space exploration.

NASA contract awards to minority, small and disadvantaged businesses, and women-owned ventures have more than tripled.

During Goldin’s tenure, NASA launched 171 missions, of which 160 have been successful.

“Being appointed NASA Administrator was the fulfillment of a childhood dream. This is the greatest job in the world and it is difficult to leave a job you love,” Goldin said.

“But NASA’s mission of discovery will continue. Humanity will continue to benefit from the fruits of this journey and I am proud and deeply humbled by the opportunity that was given me. The people of NASA have my unconditional respect and eternal gratitude.” ■

Additional images and information about Goldin and his accomplishments are available on the Internet at:

Information about the Council on Competitiveness is available on the World Wide Web at:

Cell phone usage no longer permitted while driving government vehicles

With NASA’s top core value being safety, a new Agency policy prohibits the use of hand-held wireless (cellular) phones by NASA employees when driving motor vehicles owned, leased or rented by the Federal Government. The policy is effective immediately.

According to a release issued by NASA headquarters, the prohibition was put into place “in order to be proactive in the prevention of needless risk to, or loss of, life or damage to property.”

The State of New York recently banned the use of hand-held wireless phones while driving in that state. Similar legislation is pending in at least 27



other jurisdictions. In addition, 23 countries around the world now restrict or prohibit wireless phones in motor vehicles.

“These actions have been taken in view of the growing evidence of an increase in driver distraction and greater risks to safety while using hand-held phones,” according to the release.

Employees are further reminded that they are expected to comply with all state and local laws of the jurisdiction in which they are operating a motor vehicle owned, leased or rented by the Federal Government.

<http://www.nasa.gov>
http://www.nasa.gov/bios/goldin_gallery.html

<http://www.compete.org>